

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 19 appropriates \$370.0 from the general fund for fiscal year 2003 to the Secretary of State for the purpose of adding an electronic filing requirement to the Campaign Reporting Act, the development of a computer system to file reports electronically and to publish the reports on the internet in a searchable format.

Significant Issues

The bill provides that the Secretary of State shall develop or contract for services to develop a system that allows for the electronic submission and review by the public of reports of campaign expenditures, contributions and statements of exception. The system must enable individuals to file reports through the Secretary of State website and must provide for encrypted transmissions.

In addition to the provisions of the electronic filing system, the bill also stipulates the reports must be filed electronically beginning January 1, 2004 by all reporting individuals except those reporting for a magistrate or an elective county office. Reporting individuals may apply to the Secretary of State for an exemption due to hardship, which is defined by the Secretary of State.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill appropriates \$370.0 for expenditure in fiscal year 2003. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

In addition to the appropriation, the agency indicates that there will be an annual cost of \$55.5 for the maintenance, technical support and licensing fees. This is based on an industry standard of 15 percent of the initial system cost.

MW/ar